

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/924,076, filed August 7, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/298,300, filed June 14, 2001.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

A union or swivel nut **40** is provided on the distal end **24** of the body **21** to facilitate connection of the explosion-proof instrument quick disconnect and seal **10** to an adjoining conduit system **70 (in Figure 3)** ~~(not shown)~~ through which the conductors **12** may extend for connection to external circuits. The union **40** has a longitudinal bore extending therethrough such that the union **40** may be slid over and rotatably secured to the distal end **24** of the body **21**. The union **40** is preferably slid over the distal end **24** of the body **21** until a proximal end **41** of the union engages a shoulder **27** formed on the exterior of the body **21**. A retaining ring **45** may be positioned within a groove formed in the exterior of the body **21** near the distal end **24** to ensure that the union ~~**50**~~ **40** does not separate from the body **21**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

A conduit system 70 (in Figure 5) ~~(not shown)~~ is removably connected to the distal end **34** of the male portion **30** through which the conductors **12a** may extend for connection to external circuits. Preferably, the distal end **34** of the male portion **30** is provided with external (male) threads **37a** to facilitate connection to the adjoining conduit system (not shown) having internal (female) threads for engagement with the external (male) threads **37a** of the male portion **30**. Other conventional arrangements for connecting the male portion **30** to an adjoining conduit system are also applicable with the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In the preferred embodiment, the opening in the distal end **24** of the body **21** through which the electrical conductors **12** exit from the female portion **20** is completely sealed by preferably injecting a potting compound or sealing cement 80 (in Figure 3) ~~(not shown)~~ into the opening and within the bore **22** surrounding the electrical conductors **12**. Indentations, grooves or threads **60** in this area within the bore **22** of the body **21** are preferably provided to permit the potting compound or sealing cement to fill the indentations, grooves or threads **60**, thereby increasing the holding strength of the potting compound or sealing cement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Similarly, in the preferred embodiment, the opening in the distal end **34** of the male portion **30** through which the electrical conductors **12a** exit is completely sealed by preferably injecting a potting compound or sealing cement **80 (Figure 5) (not shown)** into the opening and within the bore **32** surrounding the electrical conductors **12a**. Indentations, grooves or threads **61** in this area within the bore **32** are preferably provided to permit the potting compound or sealing cement to fill the indentations, grooves or threads **61**, thereby increasing the holding strength of the potting compound or sealing cement.